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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Executive Committee
Fifth meeting
Beirut, 18-19 December 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

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ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening session of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee will convene at the United Nations House in Beirut, on Tuesday, 18 December 2018. Given that the chair of the ESCWA ministerial session also chairs the meetings of the Executive Committee, the fifth meeting of the Committee will be chaired by the representative of Tunisia, which is currently chairing the thirtieth session of the Commission. The representative of Tunisia will give the inaugural speech, and the representative of the ESCWA secretariat will give the welcoming speech.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the provisional agenda and annotations for this meeting will be presented to the Executive Committee in document E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/L.1.

The proposed organization of work will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

Follow-up issues

3. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its fourth meeting (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/3)

This document sets out the actions undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its fourth meeting, which was held in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2017.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the progress report and provide comments thereon, and to review actions taken at the national level in that regard.

4. Implementation of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region and resolutions adopted at the thirtieth ESCWA session (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/4)

At the close of the thirtieth ESCWA session, held in Beirut from 25 to 28 June 2018, member States adopted the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region and a

set of resolutions. This document reviews the secretariat's plan for implementing the Beirut Consensus and the activties already undertaken in that regard, as well as persuant to the resolutions.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of implemented and planned activities and provide comments thereon, and to review measures at the national level in that regard.

Regional and global issues

5. Financing for development: progress in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/5)

This document provides an assessment of global financing for development (FfD) outcomes and recommendations from a regional perspective. It makes statistical inferences from the numbers of resolutions and reports issued in 2018 related to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to provide an indication of prevalent implementation gaps. It also reviews key FfD messages of United Nations entities and other international stakeholders through a regional lens, and offers a region-sensitive evaluation of their possible applications, spillovers and enforcement prospects under prevalent risk conditions in the Arab region.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the key messages and findings contained in the document and of the activities undertaken to support FfD at the regional level, and to provide guidance for the work of ESCWA in this important area, especially since regional commissions are assuming greater roles to advance the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as part of reforming the United Nations Development System.

6. Arab Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data: progress in implementation (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/6)

At its twelfth session held in Beirut on 4 and 5 April 2017, the ESCWA Statistical Committee adopted the Arab Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. The Arab Regional Action Plan was based on the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session. This document provides the status of implementation of the Arab Regional Action Plan.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the content of the document and of the efforts undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat to support member States in building their statistical capacity to monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Palestinian economy under the occupation: the case of the industrial sector (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/7)

The ESCWA secretariat continues to monitor the long-term repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people, and their economy and society, pursuant to ESCWA resolutions, in particular 326 (XXIX) and 330 (XXX). As part of those efforts, this document examines the Palestinian economy under the occupation through a set of macroeconomic indicators. It then places focus on the industrial sector due to its significant potential to drive economic and social development in the State of Palestine, a potential however thwarted by the Israeli occupation and related policies.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the content of the document and comment thereon.

8. Climate change in the Arab region: relevant regional and international developments (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/8)

Following up on climate change and its repercussions on Arab countries, this document reviews recent developments in climate change negotiations, the issuance of associated scientific work conducted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and prepartions for the twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The document also presents progress made in the implementation of ESCWA resolution 329 (XXX) on the establishment of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies and efforts to made to secure funding for its activities. It finally features climate-related activities and events planned for 2019.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the content of the document and to comment on climate change-related activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat.

9. Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: five years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/9)

The ESCWA secretariat will submit to the Executive Committee at its fifth meeting the report of the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: five years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration, which was held at the United Nations House in Beirut from 30 October to 1 November 2018. ESCWA organized the Arab Regional Conference, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and the League of Arab States, to review and follow up on the implementation of the 2013 Cairo Declaration emanating from the Regional Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States (Cairo, 24-26 June 2013). The key messages from the Beirut conference will be submitted to the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the report and to comment on ESCWA activities in the field of population and development.

10. Supporting Arab States in the periodic review of progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/10)

As part of national and regional preparations to review progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption at the Fourth Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, ESCWA is collaborating with the Arab States/North Africa Regional Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the League of Arab States to unify efforts aimed at supporting Arab States in preparing their national reviews, and at completing a regional review that includes all Arab countries. A comprehensive and integrated participatory work programme has been developed to keep pace with the periodic reviews of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the review process on the national and regional levels, and to provide support to national women's machineries in preparing national reviews.

11. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and its relevance to the Arab region (E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/11)

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be adopted in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, is an unprecedented milestone in global cooperation towards a common framework that addresses the challenges and opportunities of migration governance. It was built on a State-led, intergovernmental and participatory process that included a consultation phase, a stocktaking phase and an intergovernmental negotiation phase. The Global Compact for Migration acknowledges shared responsibilities to respect, protect and fulfil migrants' human rights, promote the security and

prosperity of all communities, mitigate adverse drivers and structural factors that push people to migrate, and reduce the risks and vulnerabilities faced during migration cycles.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the developments leading to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration, and of key areas where the ESCWA secretariat can offer support for implementation, follow-up and review at the regional level.

Programmatic issues

12. Proposed programme plan for the year 2020
(E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/12)

This document contains the proposed programme plan for ESCWA for 2020. It contains the overall programme orientation and the orientation for each of the seven ESCWA subprogrammes, as well as an annex featuring the proposed list of deliverables for that year.

The Excutive Committee is invited to review the proposed programme plan for the year 2020 and make recommendations as necessary.

13. Technical cooperation activities for 2018
(E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/13)

This document sets out progress in implementing technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA in 2018. Those activities include building the capacity of member States through training workshops and technical advisory services on formulating policies, strategies and workplans in the various fields of work undertaken by ESCWA.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the progress achieved in implementing technical cooperation activities and make suggestations regarding means of implementation.

14. Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee

The Committee will decide on the date and venue of its sixth meeting.

15. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may decide to discuss.

16. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its fifth meeting

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its fifth meeting for adoption.